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has resulted, and the line has never been properly in order since its completion. At present, only empty coal trains returning to Dimitrovo from Sofia use the line because the railbed cannot carry heavy loads without grave risk of further subsiding. No passenger trains use the route.

4. The recent trial was held against this background, the accused merely being scapegoats for short-sighted planning. Engineers Koev, Ganchev, Sakelarov, and one other were condemned to death and the remainder of the accused persons were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

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1. Comment: The accused persons may be identical with the following personalities:

- a. Vasil Koev: An engineer who was appointed Assistant Minister of Construction and Roads in January 1948;
- b. Yordan Nikolov Ganchev: An engineer who was Director of Energohidroproekt (Hydroelectric Project) at the Ministry of Electrification in November 1949 when listed as a technical witness at the Kostov trial; and
- c. Manuel Sakelarov: Minister of Construction and Roads December 1947 - August 1949 when arrested in connection with the Kostov trial; was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on 2 May 1951 for "sabotaging industry and inflicting heavy losses on the national economy."

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